

**MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**  
**CITIZENS AT THE CENTRE OF OUR SAFETY AND SECURITY**  
**STRATEGY 2014 PROGRESS REPORT**  
**AND PERSPECTIVES FOR 2015**

Ladies and Gentlemen

You would recall that at the end of last year I rolled out new initiatives which the Ministry of Home Affairs would have been implementing in 2014 to deal with the security of our country.

The Ministry is cognizant of its responsibility to the citizens of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in ensuring that the security of the State is maintained and that our people and visitors feel safe in our country. In this regard, we have been constantly examining ways in which we can improve the delivery of our service.

Considerable effort has been made by the staff at my Ministry and the Constituent Agencies to efficiently undertake the initiatives that were rolled out during the reporting period.

I now wish to present a progress report on those initiatives taken towards achieving the Ministry's targets for the year 2014.

**Guyana Police Force**  
**Reforms and Modernization**

Save for the cases of police misconduct, an increase in disorderly murders principally as a result of domestic violence, gun-related crimes and road fatalities which threatened public trust in Policing over the past twelve (12) months the year 2014 has been an uneventful and relatively successful year for the Law Enforcement Agencies.

Peace and good order in our society has prevailed. And the safety and security of the general population has improved significantly.

Yes, there will be critics and the cynics, not to mention prophets of doom and gloom who have well established themselves through their writings in the print

media criticizing the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Law Enforcement Agencies.

When I hear the usual suspects criticize the Law Enforcement Agencies, I invite them to support the reforms currently underway at the Guyana Police Force. Sometimes, I get the impression that the critics do not want reforms. In this regard, their actions speak louder than their words.

Their criticisms are of course political in nature, notwithstanding the pretences at “wanting an improved security situation in our country”.

A Press Statement issued on December 23, 2014 by the Guyana Police Force put it rather candidly stating:

“The Guyana Police Force is appealing to members of political parties not to use the Guyana Police Force for political mileage and wishes to inform the public that it is making great efforts to improve the quality of service it provides and to gain public trust”.

And in a Guyana Times Editorial published on December 24, 2014, that daily newspaper had this to say:

“They (meaning the political opposition) have also stood on the side of criminals and other persons with shady characters whenever the Police are seen as acting forcefully or aggressively. It has also become a norm for the Opposition parties to lash out at the Police over isolated instances of criminal activity even without the facts to support their claims.

It is not surprising, therefore, that these parties find comfort in rejecting various proposals made by the Government which are aimed at arresting crime and causing a reduction in criminal activities in our society”

In this connection, sections of media, particularly the Kaieteur News, Stabroek News, Channels seven (7) and nine (9), Demerara Waves, and INews must be mentioned here. The Kaieteur News while pretending to be “a friend” of the Police pays enormous sums for leaks, while the Stabroek News is always on the look out for potential “stellar performance” awardees, but never ever finding any in the Security Sector. Channels seven (7) and nine (9) for their part, play the role of parroting what “Dem Boys Seh” about developments in the security sector. And INews and Demerara Waves compete and jostle with each other in and out of Guyana to paint the gloomiest and crime ridden picture of the situation in Guyana.

I mention these facts, not because the crime situation in our country must be hidden, in any event, the Police themselves publish on a monthly basis statistics on crime and traffic etc.

It is the sensationalizing and the front-paging of these stories 365 days each year and the view that since such a practice hurt the operatives in the security sector most, the Media Houses mentioned earlier considers it their duty to do more of it moreso, since it reaps huge profits.

The end result of this analysis therefore is that we have in our country deeply prejudiced and profit-driven Media Houses who for their own selfish interests view the Security Sector as a “golden Goose” whose droppings must be exploited fully.

On December 3, 2014, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a statement in which it assessed the progress made with Reforms at the Guyana Police Force (GPF) with the assistance of the civilian-led Strategic Management Department since its establishment. That statement mentioned inter alia:

“It should not be forgotten that the Guyana Police Force (GPF) in its 175 years of existence has never undertaken a task of such complexity and magnitude. Therefore, the mere formulation of a forwarding looking document which addresses both operational efficiency and organizational cultural reforms is not only a step in the right direction, but is an indication of a commitment on the part of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) dedicated to bring the Guyana Police Force (GPF) in line with modern police forces globally”

That statement was issued in an effort to remind the public in general and the critics in particular about the significance of the reforms currently underway at the Guyana Police Force and to place that process in a historical context.

Institutional Reform, and in this case Reform at the Guyana Police Force (GPF) is the process of reviewing and restructuring the Organization so that it better respects human rights while enforcing the law and is accountable to the Guyanese people. Reform can provide for both accountability and disabling the structures that allow abuses to occur.

To quote one world leader:

“There is bound to be resistance to change  
or reform;  
But it cannot be done in stealth”

He went on to say that;

“Reforms are handicapped with the perception of being  
Government programmes, and a burden on the people  
and this needs to change.

Reforms must be policy centric - and driven by those who  
take ownership”.

The current Reforms at the Guyana Police Force (GPF) are aimed at helping the Force speed up justice by trusting their professional discretion and helping them to focus on their real purpose of crime fighting.

In the fight against crime we cannot stand still, were we to do so the criminals will move ahead of us. We always need to do better, thus Government’s Reform Plans for the GPF will continue and continue apace.

To the hierarchy of the GPF, I say this, the lessons drawn from ingenuity, and innovation boil down to the following, it does not matter how good you are, you can always do better and ultimately, it doesn’t matter how better you become, you can always strive to be the best.

As regards the role and place of the Police, we in the PPP/C Government sees things differently from our predecessors now represented in the APNU cum PNC.

Whereas, they issued edicts and set targets, we encourage the Police to use their expertise to solve the problems they face on a daily basis.

Our role is to set the strategic agenda, and to ensure we support the Police in reducing crime.

Ultimately, it is for the Commissioner of Police (ag), the Crime Chief and the subordinate ranks to determine how best to achieve this goal, not Ministers nor Public Servants.

I consider it my duty to continue to challenge the Police to improve and insist they continually challenge themselves.

And in setting these challenges, I intend to continue the PPP/C Administration's pace of reform. To encourage a culture of excellence which will allow officers to grow in their profession and to strive relentlessly in the pursuit of efficient delivery of service to the people.

The GPF must be self-confident enough to be transparent about its mistakes and honest about its failures.

Police Ranks are crime fighters. That is pretty much straight forward. Yet too often they are relied upon as social workers to fix society's ills and at the same time deal with criminals.

Too often we hear people say that "the Police alone cannot do it" that is true to some extent, especially in the context of intelligence-led policing where local and community intelligence as well as inter-agency collaboration is critical when it comes to crime-solving. At the same time it must be borne in mind that the GPF is the only authorized body in Guyana to investigate and solve crime; all other entities, such as Community Police, Neighbourhood Police, Traffic Wardens, Special Constabulary and Supernumerary are subordinate to the GPF and must take guidance from the GPF in matters related to fighting crime.

Moreover, as Minister of Home Affairs, it is my job to improve the partnerships in the Security Sector to make the Criminal Justice System work smoothly especially in the area of collaboration with the DPP's Chambers, the newly appointed Police Legal Advisor, the Courts and the Director of Prisons.

Police ranks often, rightly express frustration at times wasted at Court, to address this, the priority must therefore be to make sure more trials go ahead on the day they are meant to and when they can't proceed, police and other witnesses should have access to video evidence technology to ensure they are not left standing around wasting time.

Suitable technology for Police Ranks will be made available to allow for the process of building a file begins on the street and not at the station. The job must be made easier for both the Police and the victim. The inconsistency whereby the quality of case file preparation and success rate of prosecution needs improvement.

It is expected that the new digital occurrence Book at Police Stations will reduce greatly the amount of paper work in the system.

In 2015, a number of innovative technological applications is expected to be introduced to cut down on the old conventional pen and paper fashion of doing things. Police ranks must be able to collect video and picture evidence on the street via CCTV feeds and download it straight into a digital file.

Problem solving tools for domestic violence crimes and locating the nearest CCTV camera will be introduced and used more effectively.

The Integrated Crime Information System (ICIS) must leap frog from where it is now as a tool for gathering and analyzing data to a tool where occurrences are transmitted on a real time basis to high ranking officers in the Force to enable them to make quick decisions.

The use of body worn cameras has now become a necessity and will be introduced in 2015

We all know from our own lives that change can be difficult. But once embraced, change can be enriching and invigorating.

Moreover, once that change is made we will find ourselves asking the question, why didn't we make the change long before?

The Guyana Police Force must not be left behind nor standing at the cross roads pondering whether modernization or status quo is the way to go.

Three (3) staff members of the Strategic Management Department had resigned in November 2013 but those vacancies were filled by June 2014 and work progressed satisfactorily. The Department has its full complement of staff.

### **Citizen Perception Survey**

In 2014 the Ministry made a decision to conduct a Citizen Perception Survey which would provide baseline information on how citizen view the performance of the Guyana Police Force, and through which the Force would be able to measure the success of interventions in that regard.

The Ministry has already advertised for a Firm to conduct this survey, applications were received, applicants were interviewed and one suitably qualified was selected. Work will begin in the New Year.

In an effort to ensure that the Strategic Management Department was working in accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Ministry of Home Affairs in July 2014 hired a Consultant to conduct a Management Audit of the Department to assess the state of the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The purpose was to review the management planning methods and practices in the Department, examine how management was utilizing employees' skills, assess the arrangements for internal and external communication and relate these to the Department's current output.

The results of the audit indicated that there were no major variations in the work of the Department and recommendations were made including the following:

- A format should be developed for monthly reporting from the Department to the Assistant Commissioner Administration
- The Department must be kept informed about the work of the Executive Leadership Team and
- The Department must be involved in Leadership team and policy board meetings

## **Recruitment of Data Entry Clerks**

Additional Data Entry Clerks were recruited to boost the expansion of the Integrated Crime Information System and to date, a total of eighty one (81) Clerks were employed covering Police Divisions 'A' to 'F', as well as the Georgetown, Lusignan, Timehri and New Amsterdam Prisons and the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit Headquarters.

These clerks enter data from reports collected by the Constituent Agencies under the Ministry to allow for analysis for operational and policy decision making.

Never in the history of Security Sector has there been such a massive ICT Wide Area Network.

## **Passport System Upgrade**

I reported in 2013 that efforts were underway to upgrade the Machine Readable Passport Issuing and Border Control System which was launched in July 2007.

This upgrade was facilitated during 2014, by the Canadian Bank Note Company with the decommissioning of the old system and installation of new hardware and software components.

In 2014 also, the Ministry of Home Affairs signed a contract with Canadian Bank Note Company Limited to upgrade the security features of Guyana's Machine-Readable Passports in order to safeguard the integrity of the document. This process is almost complete and the new re-designed passports will come into being in 2015. The old passports will be gradually phased out.

The year saw the decentralization of passport issuance to Divisions B, E, F and G, thus bringing some measure of relief to citizens, some of whom had to expend significant sums of money to travel to the Central Passport and Immigration in Georgetown to obtain their passports.

## **Training**

The Guyana Police Force continues to conduct training programmes so that officers and ranks are adequately trained for their respective roles.

The resuscitation of the Drug Awareness Resistance Education Programme (DARE) also saw thirty five (35) DARE officers across the Divisions being trained as paramedics.

Anti-Piracy Training was conducted for twelve (12) ranks of the Force to equip them with the requisite skills to traverse the waterways.

A Special Weapons and Tactical Team (SWAT) was established in the Force and ranks were provided with the relevant training by The Emergence Group (TEG), from the United States of America. The establishment of this team will strengthen the capability of the Guyana Police Force to respond to the growing and changing trends of criminal acts committed against citizens.

The SWAT is under the command and control of the Commissioner of Police (ag).

Plans are underway for the Force to receive Crowd Control Training in January 2015. This training was recommended over the years and is provided for in the Guyana Police Force Strategic Plan. Notably, the Linden Commission of Inquiry had made a recommendation for the Guyana Police Force to receive this type of training.

Some seventy seven (77) officers and ranks of the Force participated in a number of overseas training courses, some of which included Leadership, Management and Development, Money Laundering, Fingerprint, Intelligence, Kidnapping, Travel Document and Security and Security and Extortion Negotiation. A number of these courses were made possible through collaboration between the Guyana Police Force and its regional and hemispheric counterparts.

## **Canine Unit**

Recognizing the need to strengthen the capacity and capability of the Guyana Police Force Canine Unit, the Ministry of Home Affairs engaged an overseas Consultant to conduct an assessment of the performance of the Unit with a view to determine what areas needed to be strengthened. A report was submitted and a number of recommendations were made, which will be implemented in 2015.

## **Delinking of E and F Divisions**

E and F Divisions were delinked, thus allowing for the Divisional Commanders to have a better focus on policing in the interior locations and better operational flexibility.

## **Increase in Authorized Strength**

In 2014 Cabinet gave approval for an increase in the establishment of the Guyana Police Force from 3,410 to 4,956. This upward revision has made commensurate the demands of Guyana's significantly changed security environment in the preservation of law, order and peace which stems from an increase in population size and the accompanying development of new communities, an increase and frequent occurrences of social-economic activities, significant increases in the number of motor vehicles and the accompanying expansion of the road network and significant opening up of Guyana's interior regions.

This year Cabinet also approved an increase by three hundred and twenty-two (322) the number of ranks of the Special Constabulary bringing the total number of ranks belonging to the Special Constabulary to nine hundred and sixty-eight (968).

## **Appointments**

During the period under review, Justice Claudette Singh was appointed the Police Legal Advisor. Justice Singh has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Force, which would strengthen the Force's capability in the preparation of Court cases of a criminal nature.

## **Police/Community Relations**

In 2014 and in keeping with its Strategic Plan, the Guyana Police Force embarked on a number of projects aimed primarily at fostering good police/community relations, promoting trust, empowering citizens to develop a sense of personal security and removing the social ills from their communities. These initiatives by the Force were all built on the foundation laid by the highly successful Community

Action Component of the first ever Citizen Security Programme, which was rolled out in January of 2008 and concluded in June 2014.

### **Cops and Faith Community Network**

The Cops and Faith Network which was launched by the Ministry in 2013 has been providing a valuable service and is seen as a useful mechanism to deal with youths who are arrested for the first time for minor offences.

At the end of 2014, one hundred (100) interventions were made by members of the Cops and Faith Network. These included forty (49) males and forty seven (47) females between the ages of ten (10) and seven (7) and they were detained for offences such as assault, throwing of missiles, simple larceny, wandering and using indecent language and threatening behaviour.

All stakeholders must lend their support to this wonderful initiative in 2015.

### **Name Change**

The name change of the Guyana Police Force, to ‘Guyana Police Service’ did not materialize in 2014 as it did not receive the Opposition’s approval in Parliament.

This name change had nothing to do with societal cosmetology. In fact, the change was and still remains an integral part of the change process currently underway at the Guyana Police Force.

The Ministry of Home Affairs remains committed to a name change for the Guyana Police Force and will seek to reintroduce the Bill to this effect when the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament is convened in 2015.

### **Brainstorm session on ‘Gangs’**

On December 18, 2014 the Ministry organized a session to brainstorm the issue of Gangs, the gang culture and anti-gang initiatives. A number of stakeholders attended the session which was extremely beneficial. What came out forcefully was the fact that there needed to be a multi-sectoral approach, legislation and capacity building in Guyana to address this problem and as such another session is scheduled for early 2015.

## **Capital Allocation**

The sum of seven hundred and twenty one million (\$721,000.00) dollars was allocated for Capital Expenditure.

A total of two hundred and fifty four million (\$254,000,000) dollars is being spent on a number of building projects including the construction of the upper flat of the Brickdam Lockups, construction of Phase 111 of Central Police Station, New Amsterdam and construction of Police Station at Land of Canaan.

The sum of two hundred and twenty million (\$220,000,000) dollars is being spent on land and water transport.

Two hundred and eighteen (\$218,000.000) million dollars is being spent on items of equipment and the sum of twenty nine million (\$29,000,000) dollars was spent on items of office equipment and furniture.

## **Guyana Prison Service Reforms and Modernization**

For the year 2014 the performance of the Guyana Prison Service can be considered as much improved, when compared to some of the previous years, while there were two (02) incidents of note the general performance of staff at the corrections/custodial level can be considered commendable.

The Guyana Prison locations are currently overcrowded. There is a total population of 1,967 inmates as at December 29, 2014.

The total established housing capacity is one thousand, five hundred and twenty two (1,522) this shows an over-crowding of four hundred and forty five (445) with the exception, where New Amsterdam Female Prison has a capacity of one hundred and twenty (120) inmates and is presently housing fifty nine (59) inmates

The current staff strength of the Guyana Prison Service is four hundred and four (404) which includes office/clerical staff when compared to the inmate population of 1,967, this gives a ratio of five (05) inmates to one (01) officer. However, the

actual custodial/correctional detail is two hundred and twenty seven (227). This will give a working ratio of one (01) officer to nine (09) inmates.

### **Escape and Recapture**

For the year 2014 there were five (05) escapes of which four (04) were recaptured compared to 2013 which saw five (05) escapes and three (03) was recaptured.

None of these escapes resulted from Prison Break.

### **Serious Incidents**

There were two (02) incidents of note, one at the New Amsterdam Prison which saw several inmates who were injured by other inmates and Mazaruni Prison where an inmate was stabbed and killed by another inmate.

In the case of New Amsterdam Prison, a Board of Inquiry (BOI) was held and as a result of the investigations several recommendations were made. Action was taken to implement these recommendations, some were completed and some are in progress.

In the case of the Mazaruni Prison, the Police and an internal investigation was done and the alleged perpetrator was charged and currently before the Court.

### **Death of Prisoners/Inmates**

For the year 2014 there was one (01) unnatural death which occurred by stabbing in comparison to 2013 where there were three (03) unnatural deaths all by suicide.

A Strategic Management Department of the Guyana Prison Service was established and the vacancies for Technical Officer – Prisons Management, Technical Officer – Planning, Research and Mobilization and Senior Policy Analyst were filled. The remaining vacancy, which is the Head of the Department will be filled by the end of this year.

Members of the Department made visits to the various Prison locations, held discussions with the Prisons Directorate and other senior officers and are now developing plans for their respective areas of responsibility.

In 2013 the Ministry established a Standing Orders Committee to develop Standing Orders for the Guyana Prison Service. Work was completed in 2014 and a total of forty three (43) Standing Orders were developed which will guide Officers and ranks in respect of their conduct in the execution of their duties. In fact these Orders have laid down the rules and operational procedures by which the Guyana Prison Service is governed. The Orders will be available on the Ministry's website.

The development of these Standing Orders for the Guyana Prison Service was long overdue. The extant situation in the absence of a comprehensive and singly bound Standing Orders for the Prison Service was totally unacceptable to the Ministry and it was in these circumstances that the Ministry found it necessary to constitute the Committee to begin work towards achieving this objective.

I take this opportunity to convey to the Committee Members my congratulations and deepest appreciation for a job well done in the finalization of these Standing Orders which will be launched immediately after my presentation.

The Training, Sentence Management, Recruitment, Parole and Agriculture Development Boards that were established by the Ministry are all chaired by civilian volunteers. These Boards held their statutory meetings, made visits to prison locations and generally made a tremendous contribution to the work of the Guyana Prison Service, in keeping with their mandates.

I take this opportunity to thank the Leaders and Members of these Boards for the yeomen service they have given to the GPS in 2014 and look forward to their continued support and cooperation in 2015.

## **Training**

Training continues to play a critical role in the development of ranks at the Guyana Prison Service. The establishment of the Training and Recruitment Board has contributed significantly to the development of the Service.

Training programmes now reflect the proposed name change of the Guyana Prison Service to Guyana Prison and Correctional Service meaning there are custodial as well as correctional and remedial training sessions for ranks and inmates at all Prison locations.

And we have come a far way in creating the division of labour between Prison officers who are employed for custodial duties as distinct from civilians who are employed for correctional and remedial duties.

Incidentally it is important to mention that on August 28, 2014, Cabinet gave its approval to abolish the post of Assistant Prison Officer (APO) and to bolster the rank of Prison Officer (PO) by incorporating former APO's into the rank of PO's after they would have sat the necessary exams to allow them to do so.

Nine (9) Prison Officers benefitted from overseas training in such areas as Prison Management and Administration, Prison Riot, Correction Institutional Management and Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of Prisoners.

## **Name Change**

The name change of the Guyana Prison Service to 'Guyana Prison and Correctional Service' did not materialize in 2014 because it was opposed by the political Opposition in the National Assembly.

Here again I wish to emphasize that the Bill laid in the National Assembly to effect the name change had nothing to do with cosmetology.

The name change was to reflect the deep-going changes reflected in the Strategic Plan of the Guyana Prison Service . However, as I pointed out before since the

Parliamentary Opposition did not support the name change, in effect the reforms and modernization process at the Guyana Prison Service is proceeding *apace de facto*.

The implementation of the GPS Strategic Plan will give a shot in the arm to the transformative process that will bring about a sea change at the Prison Service of our country. A Change Team comprising Senior Prison Officers and the civilian members of the Strategic Management Department (SMD) has already been established to drive the modernization process.

### **Illegal Drugs at Prison Locations**

The Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned about the reports of illegal drugs and other paraphernalia entering the prison locations by inmates, prison officers and civilians who attempt to either throw them over the fences or smuggle them through the gates.

The Ministry has a zero tolerance for this scourge and as such those who were caught with illegal goods, be it drugs, cigarettes or other items, were placed before the Court.

This year, due to diligence on the part of the Prison Administration, there was an increase in the detection of cases and four (4) Prison Officers were charged and placed before the Court and three (3) others were charged departmentally.

Three (3) civilians were placed before the Court - one is presently serving two (2) years for attempting to smuggle cartridges into prison and two (2) were sentenced with the option of paying a fine.

In order to beef up the security infrastructure, cameras, monitors and electronic scanners were installed at all prison locations and were complemented by regular body searches of both inmates and officers. Regular searches at the locations by Prison Officers and members of the Joint Prison/Police teams were carried out to address breaches in the security system.

Our efforts will continue in 2015 to make our prison environment safe and secure. Much emphasis will be placed also on training for officers and ranks, corrections and the rehabilitation of the prison, in keeping with the Service's Strategic Plan.

## **Capital Allocation**

The sum of two hundred and ninety eight million (\$298,000,000) dollars was allocated to the Guyana Prison Service for its Capital Programme.

Of this sum two hundred and twelve million (\$212,000,000) dollars is being spent building projects including the construction of the Brick Prison, Trade Shops and the Lusignan Prison, which has been identified as a correction facility particularly for young offenders.

Thirty nine million (\$39,000,000) dollars is being spent on land and water transport and forty seven million (\$47,000,000) dollars is being spent on agriculture and other equipment.

## **Guyana Fire Service Reforms and Modernization**

In 2014 the Guyana Fire Service discharged its mandate with great efficiency, resulting from the continued expansion programmes undertaken by the Agency.

## **Strategic Plan**

The Guyana Fire Service's Strategic Plan was completed and approved by Cabinet yesterday, December 30, 2014. The Service's Strategic Management Department will be established early in the New Year. The Plan will be available on the Ministry's website.

In addition, the Service continued to receive much needed upgraded equipment to the Fire response fleet of tenders with the most recent being the timely donation of ten (10) Fire fighting vehicles from the Government of the Republic of China.

## **Capacity Building**

This intervention along with five (5) other Tenders procured through budgetary allocation has enabled the Guyana Fire Service to turn out better response time to fire scenes, thereby reducing fire losses in the urban, rural and hinterland areas than the Guyana Fire Service now operates.

It is significant to mention that the Guyana Fire Service now has sixteen (16) operational Fire Stations and five (5) Auxiliary Units in the hinterland communities, namely Port Kaituma, Mabaruma, Kwakwani, Madhia and Lethem, These locations have been providing valuable emergency and humanitarian service to their respective communities.

The posture of the Guyana Fire Service presently is significantly strong and a far cry from that which obtained prior to 1992 – that is to say that at that time the Service operated out of two (2) Stations in Georgetown, one at Timehri and one at New Amsterdam, using three (3) tenders and one (1) pick-up.

Today I am happy to inform that the Guyana Fire Service can boast of a total of forty six (46) tenders and two (2) trailer pumps country wide. This has resulted in a two (2%) percent reduction in buildings destroyed by fire and a seventeen (17%) percent decrease in serious damages.

The Service continued to face challenges in the daily discharge of its functions in view of

- the large number of derelict buildings in Georgetown where every effort is being made to have the responsible authority remove these hazards and
- the acts of malicious setting of fire to buildings and public spaces.

The Service identified the derelict structures and submitted this information to the relevant authorities for action to be taken. Additionally the Service carried out Fire Prevention activities aimed at sensitizing the public on the need for good fire prevention practices.

### **Name Change**

The name change of the Guyana Fire service to the Guyana Fire and Rescue Service did not materialize in 2014 as it is still to receive support from the Opposition in Parliament.

The proposed name change of the Guyana Fire Service is a reflection of its Strategic Plan which has been submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

Again, in keeping with this name change, the Rescue Department of the Fire Service has been bolstered with the procurement of several Ambulances which

signaled the return to the provision of a valuable humanitarian service which was abolished under the previous Administration.

### **Increase in authorized Strength**

During the year under review, Cabinet granted approval for an additional eighty-four (84) places in the authorized strength of the Guyana Fire Service, bringing the total number on strength to five hundred and eleven (511). This increase will provide the Service with the requisite strength to manage the new Fire Stations that were constructed at Bartica, Diamond and Onverwagt.

### **Training**

A number of training programmes were undertaken in 2014 both at the local and overseas levels.

Training at the newly constructed Training School at Leonora commenced in November and currently ninety four (94) recruits are undergoing training.

Thirty six (36) ranks benefitted from training in First Aid and Emergency Care and resulting from the close collaboration between the French Guiana Fire Service and the Guyana Fire Service, a French team visited Guyana in June and conducted First Aid and Road Traffic Rescue training for members of the Service.

In January 2015 eight (8) members of the Service will leave for the United Kingdom where they will be attending a training programme to equip them to perform the role of Instructors. The ranks will also undergo specialized Airport Fire and Rescue training.

### **Appointment**

During the year, three (3) Welfare Officers were appointed in the Guyana Fire Service, to provide welfare services to ranks and to develop programmes for the social well-being of the ranks and their families.

## **Sports**

In 2014 and for the first time, the Guyana Fire Service hosted the Caribbean Association of Fire Fighters Games. Seven member countries, participated with athletes totaling one hundred and thirty (130). This action no doubt raised the profile of the Guyana Fire Service and allowed for networking among the Regional Firefighting Organizations.

## **Capital Allocation**

The Guyana Fire Service Capital Allocation for the year 2014 was four hundred and ten million, three hundred and sixty four thousand (\$410,364,000) dollars.

A number of capital projects were undertaken by the Service. Of the allocated sum of ninety two million and sixty four thousand (\$92,064,000) work is being spent to complete the new Training Facility located at Leonora, West Bank Demerara, and to construct new Fire Stations at La Grange, West Bank Demerara and Corriverton, Berbice.

Notably, for the first time in its history, the Guyana Fire Service now has a purpose built training facility to cater for the training needs of its members. This facility has the capacity to accommodate seventy five (75) persons and facilitates both technical and administrative training. This training facility will be commissioned in January 2015.

The sum of two hundred and fifty six million, eight hundred thousand (\$256,800.00) dollars was spent on Land and Water Transport and the remaining sum of sixty one million, five hundred thousand (\$61,500,000.00) dollars is being spent to procure tools and equipment, office equipment and furniture and communication equipment.

Fire Protection for the vast water front and marine installations continues to be a focus for the acquisition of a Fire Boat, the design of which has already been completed

## **Customs Anti Narcotic Unit**

The Customs Anti Narcotic Unit continues to fulfill its mandate in terms of narcotic seizures and interceptions. Routine operations at the Cheddi Jagan

International Airport (CJIA), the Ogle Airport and the Guyana Post Office Corporation were on-going during 2014. Several drug interceptions were effected, as well as other operations with international agencies such as the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force (RCMP) of Canada and others resulting in significant information and intelligence gathering.

The Unit continues to collaborate closely with the Guyana Revenue Authority Drug Enforcement Unit, Guyana Police Force and Guyana Defence Force and conducted an operation in Waini River, North West District with the latter and which led to the seizure of a self-propelled semi-submersible vessel. This submarine appeared to have been built on Guyana's soil and information is that it would have been used for clandestine operations inclusive of conveyance of illegal drugs.

The Task Force meetings and collaboration both with local, regional and international counterparts have resulted in broadening of the scope of operation for the Unit.

Throughout the year, the Unit benefitted from several upgrade courses and sessions facilitated by local and foreign law enforcement agencies. In addition the Unit facilitated training sessions for other agencies, some hosted at its Headquarters and others at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport. The knowledge gained along with the sharing of techniques and methods employed continue to collectively work towards the overall improvement of the execution of duties by each agency.

CANU's total drug seizure for 2014 is comparative with that of 2013 with a total of 97kgs. 279 grams of cocaine and 1223 kgs 140.05 grams of cannabis with a significant increase in seizure on the latter over 2013.

In an effort to enhance the Unit's operational plans for 2015, approval was granted by Cabinet for the restructuring of the Unit, and for an increase in the number of persons to be employed with a pay scale adjustment. This restructuring takes effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 and a recruitment process has been engaged by the Unit to fulfill the demands of the new structure.

## **General Register Office**

Throughout 2014, the staff worked assiduously to ensure the general public received Birth Certificates in a timely manner to facilitate registrations at schools and the acquisition of passports and national identification cards.

To ensure that Guyana achieves UNICEF's 2015 Goal in respect of Universal Birth Registration, the General Register Office visited all regions with significant work being done on the Soesdyke/Linden Highway, Kato, Kabakaburi, Chuing Mouth, Itabali, Batavia, Karrau, Bartica, Port Kaituma, Shulinab, St. Ignatius, Karasabai and Annai. The objectives were to ensure that:

- systems were in place for birth registration at Health Centres in the villages
- the staff at the Health Centres were trained in Birth Registration
- the villagers were educated on the process of Birth Registration and
- Registration was conducted for children whose births were not registered, thus allowing them to obtain birth certificates.

With the re-introduction of bedside birth registration, especially at Public Institutions, registration increased significantly.

The General Register Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Education ensured that all children in the school system were in possession of birth certificates.

During 2014 one thousand, three hundred and eighty two (1,382) affidavits and three hundred and seventy five (375) Court Orders were received at the General Register Office to effect correction to birth records. Handouts were distributed and television advertisements aired to educate the public on Birth Registration in order to decrease these costly corrections.

In 2014 the process of computerizing the General Register Office commenced with the attachment of a Chief Computer Programmer under the auspices of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). An Information Management Software was developed and servers and network equipment were installed.

The system was tested to satisfaction and records are now being inputted, with a view to producing in the near future, electronic birth certificates.

The General Register Office has established a website to advise the general public on all services. The address can be obtained from the Ministry's website.

In respect of training, senior officers of the General Register Office attended a Conference held by the Guyana Police Force Immigration Department to discuss, share and learn how to identify authentic and false documents such as passports and foreign birth certificates.

## **Ministry of Home Affairs Reforms and Modernization**

The Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Home Affairs represents a blueprint for transformation for Guyana's security sector landscape and more importantly, safety and security for all citizens of Guyana.

During the reporting period, the full complement of staff for the Strategic Management Department was employed to manage the implementation of the Plan. To date good progress was made by working in collaboration with internal stakeholders to create an environment that was conducive for the institutional modernization of the Ministry.

A Ministry of Home Affairs 'Change Team' was established to act as a catalyst for the Ministry's transformation. A Strategic Plan Seminar was conducted to orient staff members of the Plan and to encourage wide staff support for it.

In addition a Communication Plan was developed and a Strategic Plan Booklet was designed to present a summary of the Plan.

Since the formulation of the Ministry's Change Team, project teams were established and they submitted proposals in respect of three initiatives:

1. Design of an Organisational Development Programme – to assist in changing the culture of the institution and improving performance.
2. Training of staff members in the use of the Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) and
3. Development of an Action Plan for the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) from recommendations proffered from the Council.

Of significance is the fact that three (3) Strategic Management Departments are now functioning; that of the Guyana Police Force, Guyana Prison Service and Guyana Prison Service to ensure reforms and modernization take place within these Agencies. As I indicated, that of the Guyana Fire Service will come on stream early in the New Year.

The need and relevance of the Ministry as the oversight body must be emphasized in the modernization process of its constituent Agencies, since the Ministry's capacity to achieve its mandate is measured by the implementation of policies and programmes it formulates. As a result, while the Ministry's direction cascades into that of the Agencies, the benefits to be derived from the formation of strategic alliances are geared to add value to the modernization process and increase the national level of peace, safety and security.

### **The Task Force on Narcotic Drugs and Illicit Weapons**

In 2014, the Task Force on Narcotic Drugs and Illicit Weapons continued to promote and foster inter-agency cooperation and collaboration aimed at enabling the best use of law enforcement intelligence and to advise on the effective conduct of operations in relation to the narcotics trade and trafficking in illegal weapons. The Task Force's monthly statutory meetings and regular sub-committee meetings along with a number of special meetings in 2014 served to facilitate progress in this regard.

During the year the Task Force generally fulfilled its mandate of interagency collaboration in quite an amicable and unified manner.

Member Agencies recognized the value of working across boundaries and as such representatives acted as catalysts in initiating partnerships, spreading the culture of collaboration nationally and protecting broader national security interests in the process.

In 2015, this Task Force will continue to be the necessary impact in influencing policy formation and implementation at the administrative level on the activities of persons who traffic in firearms and are involved in the illegal involvement of narcotics.

## **The Task Force on Fuel Smuggling and Contraband**

The Task Force on Fuel Smuggling and Contraband in 2014 continued to forge ahead with its mandate of coordinating the activities of its constituent members to effectively curb the smuggling of fuel and contraband in Guyana.

The Task Force now has seven (7) Agencies as members, namely; the Guyana Revenue Authority, Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit, Guyana Energy Agency, Guyana Defence Force, Guyana Police Force, GUYOIL and MARAD.

Prior to 2014 the Task Force had engaged the Food and Drug Analyst Department and the Guyana National Bureau of Standards in meaningful consultation to sensitise the general population of Guyana about the harmful effects of acquiring or purchasing counterfeit goods and products, as well as the negative effects of smuggling.

This initiative resulted in more sustained collaboration between the Guyana Revenue Authority and the Guyana Energy Agency and the two aforementioned Agencies in countering the trade in counterfeit and smuggled goods.

The Task Force, following a meeting held with the major Private Sector Organization in 2013, continued with action in 2014 on the issues that were raised by Private Sector representatives at that meeting. Of the eight (8) issues that were raised at the meeting, action was taken on all of them but two of those matters are currently classified as work in progress.

In addition to the routine coordinating functions carried out during in 2014, the Task Force's Work Programme focused on thirteen (13) specific activities, some of which were brought forward from 2013. Among the specific actions embarked on by this Task Force in 2014 were:

1. the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 to facilitate the joint use of the Guyana Defence Force Floating Patrol Base which is located in the Pomeroon River. This Memorandum of Understanding was signed by all Agencies on the Task Force and training of staff to be embedded on the vessel was conducted by the Guyana Defence Force Coast Guard. Agencies have commenced joint patrol operations from the Floating Base.

2. the monitoring and guiding of the implementation of the amendment of the Immigration Regulations which resulted in Eteringbang, Charity, Parika and Ogle being designated official ports of entry continued in 2014. As a result, Immigration Ranks were assigned to the Gazetted Ports of Entry but they are still operating out of the respective Police Stations.

Meanwhile, significant steps have been taken by the Agencies on the Task Force which are aimed at the construction of Multi-Purpose Complexes at Parika, Charity and Eteringbang.

In the interim, suitable locations are being sought to house the staff of the Agencies at rented facilities pending the completion of the Multi-Purpose Complexes.

3. the production of a quarterly newsletter, which has enabled the Task Force to apprise relevant stakeholders of the work that was being conducted to curb smuggling;
4. the enhancement of security infrastructure at wharves – recognizing that there is a need to enhance the security at wharves, the Task Force has embarked on strategies in collaboration with MARAD to ensure that port facilities are not used for illegal purposes. This activity has received the full support of all Agencies including MARAD. The objective of this exercise is to encourage the owners of wharves to upgrade their security infrastructure;
5. as part of its efforts to reduce smuggling of all types in Guyana, the Task Force has embarked on a study to examine the feasibility of establishing a Radar Surveillance and Response Capability System along Guyana’s sea coast to intercept smugglers; and
6. the resuscitation of the Maritime Security Committee was initiated by the Task Force in 2014. This process will continue in 2015.

To further enhance Guyana’s ability to curb smuggling activities, the Ministry of Home Affairs arranged for the construction of a Floating Patrol Base for the Guyana Police Force to assist the Force and other Agencies to jointly address this issue.

The Guyana Police Force Floating Base will be located at the mouth of the Waini River and will be used as a platform to monitor activities in the surrounding area as well as interdict smugglers.

The training of Police Ranks and the provision of technical advice to fully equip this structure will be facilitated by the Guyana Defence Force Coast Guard. This vessel is expected to be fully operational in the first quarter of 2015.

The Ministry's assessment is that 2014 was another good and productive year for the two Task Forces, in which further Inter-Agency collaboration was achieved.

This conclusion is evident by the enhanced cooperation that has developed between the Agencies of the Task Force.

For example, as at December 9, 2014 twenty five (25) instances of joint operations between Agencies of the Task Force were reported on by the Guyana Energy Agency in which it collaborated with the Guyana Police Force, Guyana Revenue Authority and the Guyana Defence Force at varying times during the year in its anti-fuel smuggling activities. The Guyana Revenue Authority during the year 2014 also initiated a number of joint operations with other Agencies on the Task Force.

As a result of the collaborative efforts of Agencies, a more effective stand has been taken against the smuggling of fuel and contraband in the country as a whole.

In 2015 the Task Forces will continue as a coordinating body to ensure that there is synergy and cost effectiveness in their efforts to further reduce the smuggling of fuel, illicit weapons, contraband and narcotic drugs in Guyana.

## **Immigration**

During 2014, there were overall improved performance levels in the services provided by the Immigration Department.

The Department successfully collaborated with the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) and other relevant stakeholders and this resulted in the retrieval of work permits and immigration approval documents by miners who no longer had to wait for lengthy periods.

During the year 2014, thirty-eight (38) Renounced their Guyanese citizenship status, while seven (7) persons obtained their Naturalization certificates. In terms of Registration, seventy-one (71) persons were Registered as Guyanese Nationals.

In respect to Visas Issued, one thousand, one hundred and forty-three (1,143) persons were granted Entry Visas, while one thousand, and forty-three (1,043) received Multiple Entry Visas. For Extension of Stay, one thousand, two hundred and ten (1,210) persons were issued with same. The number of Work Permits issued were eight hundred and fifty-one (851).

With respect to Mining Applications received, seven hundred and eighty-nine (789) persons in the Mining Industry benefitted from Mining Industry benefitted from Mining Permits.

The enhanced performance can also be attributed to capacity building whereby additional staff were recruited and trained for their respective roles.

In 2015 training and the implementation of the Electronic Document Management System are also slated to come on stream, which will greatly enhance the provision of services to our customers.

Later in 2015, the Ministry intends to submit to Cabinet for consideration a new Immigration Policy which will capture a new approach to Immigration issues reflecting the Government's new Visa Policy, developments within CARICOM and Government's Economic and Investment Policies.

### **Ogle International Airport Security Monitoring Committee**

The Ogle International Airport Security Monitoring Committee, has had a satisfactory year in 2014. In addition to the meetings held to address security issues, a security workshop was convened under the theme, "Collusion, Security & Safety in (Guyana) the Modern and Challenging Aviation Environment." The recommendations made at this workshop are under consideration for implementation early in 2015.

Generally this collaboration sought to develop partnerships between law enforcement Agencies and the Private Sector Service Providers in the aviation

sector, by discussing and sharing information among members, which was intended to lead to the general enhancement of the security at the Airport.

#### Inter-Agency Committee on Security of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport

The Inter-Agency Committee on Security of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport carried out a number of activities in 2014 including:

- A K9 testing exercise was conducted at CJIA on January 21, 2014.
- CJIA Stakeholder's Workshop which took place in March, 2014 and the recommendations are being implemented.
- The Committee piloted the establishment of a joint SOP for the operation of the Surveillance Cameras Monitoring Room at CJIA.

### **National Committee for Interpersonal Violence Prevention**

Domestic Violence in Guyana is becoming widespread and crosses racial and socio-economic barriers. The Laws of Guyana prohibits domestic violence, gives both men and women the right to seek prompt protection including protecting Orders from Magistrates.

During 2014, the Ministry of Home Affairs through the Community Policing Groups, Neighbourhood Police and the Guyana Police Force has been encouraging victims to report incidents of domestic violence so that the perpetrators would be made subject to the law.

In May 2014 the Ministry of Home Affairs established the National Committee for the Prevention of Interpersonal Violence, in keeping with a recommendation made at the Conference on the Prevention of Interpersonal Violence, which was held on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013. This body, which is comprised of social sector Ministers and their technical staff as well as the Private Sector is responsible for the implementation of the recommendations made at the Conference.

A Management Committee was also established comprising members of the National Commission on Law and Order Sub-committees on Crime and Violence and Order Decency and Culture to develop a National Plan of Action for the Prevention of Interpersonal Violence. Work has commenced in this area.

## **The National Commission on Law and Order**

It is necessary to emphasize that the National Commission on Law and Order (NCLO) is a most unique organization in the sense that it is the only body of its kind in Guyana in which Law Enforcement, the Private Sector, Civil Society, Faith Based organizations and Trade Unions meet as a single body to discuss matters pertaining to Law and Order in our country.

Its monthly TV programmes have helped considerably to bring a greater sense of awareness to viewers about law and order issues affecting Guyanese.

I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Commission for the services they provided in 2014 and look forward to their cooperation in 2015. In 2014, the National Commission on Law and Order held its monthly statutory meetings and dealt with issues including alternative sentencing, one-way streets in Georgetown, the problem with music card vendors, regulation of drivers of public transportation, and domestic violence.

### **One-way streets in Georgetown**

During 2014, the Commission conducted a comprehensive analysis of the traffic congestion in Georgetown and made a recommendation to Cabinet, which was approved by Cabinet for the introduction of a series of one-way streets in Georgetown.

Georgetown will be divided into four (4) quadrants - those being North West, North East, South East and South West. The project will be implemented in phases and by quadrants, thus minimizing the impact on the travelling public.

It was agreed that before the project is implemented there must be an aggressive sensitization programme to deliver information and education on the implementation of this project and two Public Relations experts are on board and have already designed the Public Relations campaign. The project will commence early in the New Year.

## **Music Cart Vendors**

A number of meetings and discussions were held on the noise nuisance and traffic congestion caused by music cart vendors, and in this regard the Guyana Police Force launched a campaign against these vendors. Persons were charged and taken before the Court. The Ministry also published a number of Advisories in the print media about this misuse of the roadway by the music cart vendors, particularly in Georgetown. The campaign will continue in 2015 and will be more robust.

## **Outreach Meetings**

The Commission held Outreach Meetings in Region 4 at Grove, Diamond and Good Hope, the purpose of which was to interact with members of the public on security related issues.

These meetings along with the monthly TV call-in-programmes proved to be extremely useful for members of the Commission in the formulation of the Annual Work Plan of the Commission.

The Commission will continue with these outreach meetings in 2015.

## **Alternative Sentencing**

During the first Quarter of 2015, the Ministry of Home Affairs will launch the Expert Advisory Committee on Alternative Sentencing. This Committee will comprise the Director of Public Prosecutions, a representative of the Judiciary, the Officer in Charge of Welfare and Correction, Guyana Prison Service, a sociologist, a criminologist, an economist and a psychiatrist. Their main function would be to make recommendations to modify the laws as it relates to alternative sentencing.

## **Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons**

During the reporting period the Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons launched its 2014-2015 Action Plan, which guided its activities for the year. The Task Force also released its response to the United States' 2014 Report on Trafficking in Persons.

General awareness sessions were held with residents of various communities and villages throughout the administrative regions of Guyana. The Task Force visited fifty-nine (59) secondary schools in these Regions, conducting trafficking in persons awareness lectures with approximately six thousand (6,000) students. Members of the Task Force distributed brochures, posters, mini-calendars and copies of the Combating Trafficking in Persons Act No. 2 of 2005 in these villages and schools.

Training in the prevention and identification of trafficking in persons was conducted with Community Policing Group (CPG) members at Bartica and Police Ranks in E&F Divisions.

Members of the Task Force participated in exhibitions including GUYEXPO 2014, Amerindian Heritage Week, Heritage Day and Child Protection Week distributing brochures and other documentation on trafficking in persons as well as sensitizing interested passers-by and visitors on the issue.

In 2015, the Task Force intends to complete implementation of its Action Plan for 2014-2015, which would feature, inter alia, working with youth groups and conducting further training sessions.

### **Crime and Social Observatory**

Questions have been asked about the activities of the Crime and Social Observatory and the purpose it serves

The Crime and Social Observatory comprises of a Technical Committee and a High Level Policy Committee. On the latter Body sits the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Commissioner of Police (ag), the Minister of Home Affairs, a representative of the Private Sector, the Minister of Health, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and representatives of Faith Based Organizations.

High Level Policy Committee receives technical data and recommendations from the Technical Committee for consideration and decision making at a policy level.

The Crime and Social Observatory is the only one of its kind in Guyana. Its work is valuable and should not be under-estimated.

In 2014 the Crime and Social Observatory Unit among others, worked on and completed the following:

1. Domestic Violence Reports for the years 2005-2013;
2. Traffic Analysis for the year 2013;
3. Drug Information Network Report (DIN) for the years 2011-2013;
4. Safe Neighbourhood Community Safety Assessment Report;
5. Robbery Analysis Report for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013; and
6. Analysis of the World Health Organization (WHO) “Preventing Suicide a Global Initiative” Report.

These reports provided information for decision making at the policy level.

### **Police Complaints Authority**

The Police Complaints Authority will be establishing its own team of investigators to deal with all complaints against members of the Force.

Candidates were interviewed for the positions and the successful applicants will commence work in January, 2015.

Several outreach visits were undertaken to a number of interior locations such as Annai, Lethem and Moruca, where discussions were held between the Chairman and members of the Civil Society on the role and function of the Police Complaints Authority.

For the year 2014, the Authority received approximately two hundred and forty-three (243) written complaints, into which investigations were launched.

The Ministry of Home Affairs appreciates the valuable contributions the Police Complaints Authority has made during the past twelve months in helping to uphold the integrity and transparency of the Criminal Justice System in our country.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to Justice Cecil Kennard, Chairman of the Authority for the valuable work he has done over the years. We look forward to working with him in the coming year.

### **Parole Board**

The Parole Board is constituted under the provision of the Parole Act No. 24 of 1991 Laws of Guyana Chapter 11:08. The aim of the Act is to rehabilitate

prisoners through early release on licence and supervision and for recall to prison in case of a breach of the licence.

During the fiscal year 2014, the Board met on twelve (12) occasions and examined fifty eight (58) applications by prisoners to be release on parole licence. After much discussion/deliberation the Parole Board unanimously **recommended** to the Minister the release on lincence nineteen (19) prisoners. Out of those nineteen (19) recommendations, seventeen (17) prisoners were granted parole by the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

The Parole Board remains committed to promoting public safety and improving the quality of programme that help to foster positive changes and aid in enhancing the rehabilitation of offenders.

## **Neighbourhood Policing**

Neighbourhood Police and Community Police continue to play a salutary role in communities around the country. Usually referred to as the “eyes and ears” of the Police, they are a critical source and conduit of local intelligence at the ground level in communities.

To appreciate the significance of Neighbourhood Police and Community Police, we only have to imagine a Guyana where neither of the two exist but the fact of the matter is that both exist and that is precisely why we must support and encourage the individuals in those two bodies and congratulate them for the service and the sacrifice they make in their day to day activities.

A total of three hundred and twelve (312) Neighbourhood Police are now serving in six (6) Police Divisions. Regular training sessions are provided and visits are conducted by the Subordinate Officers at the various Police Stations. Their presence in the various neighbourhoods will boost the efforts of the Guyana Police Force in its drive to build partnerships.

## **Firearm Licensing Board**

The Firearms Licensing Approval Board processes applications for firearm licences and make relevant recommendations to the Minister of Home Affairs.

During 2014, four hundred and thirty-nine (439) applications were received, three hundred and seventy three (373) were processed and recommendations were made for the approval of seventy eight (78). Two hundred and six (206) applications were refused and eighty nine (89) were returned to the Guyana Police Force for additional information.

The Board will continue to be intense in its work in 2015 to ensure that firearms are recommended and approved for those not deserving.

## **Guyana National Computer Incidents Response Team (GNCIRT)**

In recognition of the importance of the internet and computer security to the welfare of citizens, national security and economic well-being of the country, the Ministry of Home Affairs implemented a National Computer Incident Response Team in 2013. The Unit is tasked with improving the cyber security preparedness and response of the Government of Guyana through proactive security measures and information sharing mechanisms.

The CIRT commenced its operation and is tasked with ‘improving the cyber security preparedness and response of the Government of Guyana through proactive security measures and information sharing mechanisms’.

The Unit began the year by responding to a major security incident where ten (10) Guyanese websites, including Government websites, were defaced. GNCIRT continued to provide incident response services to Government Ministries throughout the year.

In 2014 a one year Strategic Plan for the Unit together with a 2014 Programme of Work was developed. A similar approach is to be adopted for 2015.

This Unit was also provided with local and overseas training in the development of capabilities in cyber security incident handling. Officers also participated in two (2) seminars:

1. OAS / CICTE Regional Workshop on Cyber Security Policies held in Washington ; and
2. ICT 4 Peace Workshop on International Security and Diplomacy in Cyberspace held in Colombia;

In 2015, the Incident Handling Unit of GNCIRT will develop detailed situational analysis of Government Agencies' and the Business Community's experiences with cyber incidents and cybercrime by conducting a Government Cyber Security Survey and a Cyber Crimes Against Business Survey. The outputs from these surveys will inform GNCIRT's strategic interventions and allow it to offer proactive services such as targeted alerts, advisories and warnings to constituents.

### **Crime Mapping**

For 2014 crime maps were developed for the area extending from Georgetown to La Ressenouvir on the East Coast of Demerara and to Eccles on the East Bank of Demerara. Both pin maps and colour coded maps of crime were created on a monthly basis and presented to the Guyana Police Force. In addition, maps showing socio-demographic data such as population, tertiary level attainment and community features were created so that they could be analysed along with the crime maps in order to ascertain patterns of crime.

This was done to support the Guyana Police Force in their efforts to deal with crime.

The most modern Satellite images were also purchased at great cost to extend the crime map coverage from Le Ressenouvir to Mahaica on the East Coast of Demerara and from Eccles to Grove on the East Bank of Demerara.

Research has commenced in respect of the display the web-based crime maps and the integration of the CCTV cameras with the crime maps in order to provide law enforcement with the ability to select the location where the crime occurred and have the CCTV footage from the cameras in the vicinity of that particular crime be displayed already queued to the date/time of the occurrence.

For 2015, in addition to the continued creation of monthly crime maps, the crime map coverage will be extended to cover most Divisions of the Guyana Police Force. It is our intention to gradually move from monthly, to weekly and to daily crime maps.

## **On Line Crime Reporting**

For the period January to December 2014 a total of one hundred and seventy four (174) reports were received via the Online Crime Reporting System, which was established by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2012. These reports were forwarded to the Guyana Police Force and as a result of investigations conducted, ten (10) persons were arrested, four (4) were charged and two (2) were warned. The offences ranged from robbery to domestic violence and noise nuisance.

## **I paid a Bribe**

Fifty one (51) reports of bribery involving Agencies were posted on the 'I paid a Bribe' Website, another innovation established by the Ministry in Home Affairs in 2013. These reports were forwarded to the Agencies concerned for them to conduct their own investigations and take appropriate action.

The Online Crime Reporting System and the I Paid a Bribe Website are two technological initiatives implemented by the Ministry to allow the ordinary citizen to make reports of criminal activities without having to visit a Police Station.

The Ministry urges all citizens to utilize these tools on a regular basis so that criminal occurrences can be dealt with in an efficient manner.

## **Traffic Tickets**

As a result of deficiencies discovered in the collection of traffic ticket fines, the Ministry of Home Affairs commissioned a small team to examine the current arrangement for the payment of traffic ticket fines with a view to making the system more efficient and effective. The names of those persons who have not paid their traffic ticket fines for 2014 were published on the Ministry of Home Affairs' website. Persons are reminded that failing to pay their ticket fines is an offence under the law and therefore they must ensure that fines are paid within the stipulated time period. Stronger measures are contemplated for 2015.

## **New E-Number Plates**

In addition to the above, I would like to announce that in 2015, a new motor vehicle “E” Licence number plate will be introduced. Before this happens, three fundamental issues would have to be addressed; legislative concerns, cost consideration for motorists and decentralization.

This new innovation will contribute significantly to enhancing citizens’ safety and security. It will be used as a crime fighting tool to help bring down crime in our country.

## **Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory**

On 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 the Ministry of Home Affairs commissioned the Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory (GFSL) within the confines of the University of Guyana.

The Laboratory has completed its Strategic Plan for the period 2014 to 2018 and focused on training of staff in the areas of evidence management, trafficking of illicit firearms and ammunition, data analysis, laboratory safety and practices, detection of counterfeit currency and credit cards and the use of scientific items.

Work is being done to finalize the Quality Control, Safety and Analytic Testing Systems in accordance with International Organization for Standardization/International Electro technical Commission 17025 in order to obtain international accreditation.

The Laboratory is also working on a Business Plan.

There has been a hue and cry over the fact that the forensic laboratory does not have the capacity to conduct DNA testing. The Ministry recognizes the importance of DNA testing to aid the crime solving capabilities of the Guyana Police Force but must mention that this was not possible under US\$19.8M loan provided under the first Citizen Security Programme, nor would it be possible under the upcoming \$US15M Programme, given the significant cost that is attached to this undertaking.

At this time, the Ministry is focusing heavily on training the staff at the laboratory to develop their capabilities and ensuring that the relevant mechanisms are in place

to facilitate ISO Certification and international accreditation. These are all pre-conditions to having a facility that conducts DNA testing.

It is expected that the testing of evidence will commence early 2015.

## **Houses of Justice**

The Houses of Justice were introduced help citizens who suffer from the “royal run around” and to enable easy access to public service which in any event should be readily available and accessible to them without let or hindrance.

Too often many Guyanese suffer the pain of being pushed around by some in the public service, who see humble individuals seeking access to public service as nuisance value or as “giving them work to do”

It is for these reasons that the Houses of Justice were introduced and established.

In 2014, the House of Justice project facilitated access to much needed services to a number of residents across Region Nos. 2 and 3, especially from the lower income households. The project provided services and support to a total of five hundred and ninety-six (596) individuals in the two Regions. The Agencies that served the Houses of Justice were National Insurance Scheme (NIS), Guyana Police Force (GPF), Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI), General Register Office (GRO), Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MHS&SS), Community Policing and Guyana Power and Light (GPL).

By bringing these services to the communities, the project eliminated the frustration faced by residents who would have had to pay a high cost and would have been inconvenienced in travelling long distances to have their issues addressed.

Students in Region 2 can now benefit from the after school lessons which were introduced as a pilot project to cater for the educational aspect.

The Ministry was also able to garner support from United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) in the House of Justice initiative. UNICEF will assist in the establishment of a Volunteer and Capacity Building Scheme. Through this partnership persons will be trained through the University of Guyana Institute of Distance Learning and Continuing Education (IDCE) in various courses and will

then be on a work attachment with the House of Justice project for six months to provide voluntary and support services. They will be trained also in areas such as conflict resolution, interpersonal violence and child protection.

In 2015, the Ministry will further improve the services offered by the various Houses of Justice to make them more community focused and efficiency driven.

### **The 911 Emergency Line**

During the course of the year the Ministry of Home Affairs, procured the services of an external consultancy to investigate and make recommendations with respect to correcting the existing deficiencies inherent in the 911 emergency telephone lines.

On examination of the report, the Ministry found it flawed and decided to abandon the study and to opt for a more indigenous approach utilizing more local technical expertise with a view to finding a solution to the 911 emergency telephone lines. Since the establishment of a local Committee to address this problem much has been accomplished. It is our expectation that earlier next year a permanent solution would be found to this problem.

### **Community Policing**

During the year 2014 there was significant growth and many activities within the Community Policing Organization of Guyana. Divisional and National Elections were conducted across the country for Divisional Executive Committees and National Community Policing Executive Committees, respectively, and the new office bearers were elected and installed.

Two hundred and seventy (270) Community Policing Groups are now active across the country with a total membership of five thousand, two hundred and one (5201).

Members of the respective Community Policing Groups in 2014 benefited from training in the areas of statement writing, first aid, trafficking in persons, domestic violence, suicide awareness, communication, custody arrest and firearm training.

Groups and Divisions carried out community service activities such as environmental cleaning, road safety, providing assistance to the less fortunate and the establishment of women's and youth groups within respective communities.

In 2014 Community Policy received much needed items including uniforms, motor cycles, boats, brush cutters and vehicles to aid their efforts in empowering their communities.

In 2015 the Community Policing Organization of Guyana (CPOG) will aim to further increase its strength in non-traditional areas, while promoting further training in Communication, Management and Computer literacy among its members.

The CPOG also intends to utilize the electronic and social media to promote road safety and security awareness within communities. Additionally, with the implementation of a Home Security Programme, businesses and home owners can obtain advice to enhance security consciousness and to further design an environment to resist criminal opportunists.

### **Stray Catching Unit**

During the year 2014 the Stray Catching programme was expanded to service the main roads on the Essequibo Coast.

A total of three thousand, six hundred and fifty six (3,656) animals were caught straying on the main roadways in A,B,C and G Police Divisions. This figure represents a 17.6% decrease as against the 2013 figure of four thousand, four hundred and thirty four (4,434).

Of the one hundred and thirty four (134) accidents resulting in the deaths of one hundred and forty five (145) persons, two (2) animals were involved resulting in two (2) deaths which reflect (2) more than the 2013 figure.

During the year 2015 the programme will further be expanded to service the main roadways in 'E' Division and generally will continue to support the Guyana Police Force Traffic Department and the Road Safety Council in their efforts at promoting safety on our roads.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to all cattle owners for their support in making our roadways safer by ensuring that their cattle are properly supervised during the grazing period.

## **Juvenile Holding Centre**

During the reporting period, one hundred and ninety nine (199) juveniles were housed at the Juvenile Holding Centre for various offences ranging from murder to wandering. Of that number, one hundred and thirty four (134) were males and sixty-five (65) were females.

Twenty eight (28) juveniles were sent to the New Opportunity Corps; five (5) attained the age of seventeen (17) years and were transferred to the Georgetown and New Amsterdam Prisons; one (1) was sent to the Drop-in Centre; some were allowed to leave with parents/guardians/close relatives; and matters against others were dismissed.

The juveniles housed at the Holding Centre were subject to daily counselling and motivational sessions; remedial classes in English, Mathematics, music, social studies and phonics, craft making, religious sessions and medical care.

As a result of these provision, it was noted that there was a reduction in the incidences of the aggression shown in some juveniles and pleasingly, some who had reunited with their relatives, have returned to the Centre for further guidance from staff members, along social workers and the police officers attached to the Centre.

Additionally, the Ministry secured financial support from the United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) in our efforts to rehabilitate the juveniles. The Organization will provide funding in the sum of eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000) which will be used to procure learning materials, assist in transportation costs for voluntary teachers, establish a library and train office staff to deal with juvenile delinquency.

## **Guyana National Road Safety Council**

The Guyana National Road Safety Council's activities are aimed to support the Guyana Police Force in its efforts to combat road accidents on our roads.

Throughout the year 2014 the Guyana National Road Safety Council (GNRSC) engaged in education and public awareness programmes, resuscitation and formation of road safety associations, training for association members on the topic of 'Strategies to strengthen road safety in Guyana,' a campaign with the theme

'Back to School' was launched which served to provide information to school age students on the general use of the road and more specifically the use of traffic signals and pedestrian crossings, participated in GUYEXPO 2014, engaged in World Remembrance Day for Crash Victims Awareness Walk, visited accident victims at the Georgetown Public Hospital, Pedestrian crossings were painted and advocated for the passage of a road safety legislation.

For the year 2015, the Guyana National Road Safety Council plans to continue its Education and Awareness Programme, Advocacy of new legislation and the increase of fines especially on Drunk Driving. The GNRSC also plans to continue resuscitating the Road Safety Associations and form new ones.

The road safety agencies will have individual or collaborative programmes to improve road users' behaviour through owner driver seminars targeting all categories of drivers, public awareness programmes on television and radio dealing with speeding, drunk driving, use of seatbelts and no cell phones while driving. National School Safety Patrol programme will also be held as well as Road Safety outreach programmes to various communities during the course of the year. School lectures and continuous mass media activities will be conducted by Police Officers and the GNRSC members on how to use the roads safely. . These include communication activities through television, radio, print and community based.

The Ministry through the Council (GNRSC) would like to thank its partners, the Guyana Police Force, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Health, the Red Cross and other stakeholders who made a significant contribution and gave of their time and effort during the year to strengthen road safety man

## **Crime**

According to the Guyana Police Force, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 there was a thirteen (13%) percent reduction in crime when compared with a similar period in 2013.

In 2013 from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 4022 serious crimes were reported while for the same period in 2014, 3478 serious crimes were reported to the Police.

All of the categories of serious crimes that were the subject of the Police report, except one category, that is Robbery Under Arms with the use of firearms, recorded decreases in the number of reports.

The reports of Robbery Under Arms with the use of firearms recorded a ten (10%) percent increase in 2014 when compared with the same period in 2013. In 2013 reports of Robbery Under Arms with the use of firearms were 729 while in 2014 the number was 799.

The reports of murder during the period under review were two (2) less than the number 143 that was recorded in 2013.

There was a significant reduction in reports of larceny from the person (street crimes). In 2013, 256 reports were made while in 2014, 153 reports were made. Reports of Robbery with Violence showed a thirty nine (39%) percent reduction in that in 2013, 207 reports were made and in 2014, 127 reports were made.

The police are still compiling their figures for the rest of the year.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has been constantly monitoring the situation with crime in the country and we have provided technological and other tools to aid the police to be better able to appreciate and analyse situations. We believe that this strategy has enabled the police to have a more focused approach in addressing crime and security.

The Ministry is aware of the challenges in addressing crime and that the strategies that are currently being implemented by the Force have worked and will continue to work as long as innovative and creative ways are found to ferret out criminal elements.

## **Traffic**

The Ministry of Home Affairs is very concerned about the number of traffic accidents especially fatal accidents that have occurred. In collaboration with the National Road Safety Council, National Commission on Law and Order and other stakeholders, the Ministry has been examining a number of innovative ways to arrest this situation which is very complex and requires not only law enforcement inputs but also better road engineering, increased visibility and moral suasion on the part of the rising trend where young and aggressive persons seem to have been negatively impacting on the traffic situation.

We are experiencing significant infrastructural development in our country and while this is a positive outcome, the better quality of roads could be one of the contributing factors to the situation but this must not be an excuse for reckless and wanton use of the roads.

The Police statistics have indicated that for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 30 December 2014 there were 135 fatal accidents resulting in 146 deaths while for a similar period in 2013, there were 103 fatal accidents resulting in 112 deaths. This speaks to a thirty (30%) percent increase in 2014.

The largest categories of deaths were pedestrians and motor cyclists.

The Ministry is not happy with the current situation as regards accidents that have been occurring. In 2015 the Ministry encourages the Police to deploy additional mobile patrols and breathalyzers to radically reverse the situation, which we all agree has caused great suffering to the families of the victims.

It is significant to point out that the Ministry of Home Affairs continues to provide resources to the Guyana Police so that the Agency can execute its mandate efficiently to the citizens of this country. We are committed to do so even though the budgets of police forces in other countries of the world are being drastically reduced.

### **New Ticket Offences**

Numerous suggestions have been made about road safety and steps that need to be taken to improve safety on our roads. The public debate continues with respect to which area should be strengthened – public education versus law enforcement or both.

We believe that emphasis should be on both and an example must be made of those errant road users and those who abuse and violate traffic laws. In the meanwhile, the public name and shame campaign should continue aggressively.

Twenty three (23) other offences will be made Ticket Offences in 2015.

Additional Traffic Wardens will be employed, trained and deployed throughout the country.

## **DOMESTIC TRENDS – NARCOTICS**

Cocaine and cannabis remain the two most prevalent types of drugs traded and used in Guyana. The transshipment of cocaine, the production of cannabis and its sporadic trafficking have trickled down to form a nexus between drugs and violent crimes, especially organized crimes such as gun smuggling, drug related corruption.

A majority of Guyana's Cannabis production is consumed locally. However, there were seizures which support the importation of a higher quality Cannabis from Jamaica and St. Vincent for subsequent exportation to bordering countries.

Trends seen during recent years regarding the cocaine smuggling methodology of traffickers are the recruitment of young unemployed individuals for trafficking through Cheddi Jagan International Airport and more recently Ogle International Airport. This involves concealment in luggage and footwear as well as swallowing by human carriers known as '*mules*'. Smuggling packages by mail through the Guyana Post Office Corporation is also becoming a common practice.

Trafficking in drugs solely benefits criminal elements operating within and outside of Guyana. Profits gained generally affect even the law abiding citizens of our country in several negative ways. Financial proceeds provide criminal gangs with the means to evade and compete with law enforcement officials.

Previously our concerns with law enforcement and "public security" have overshadowed other key tenets of drug control policy, including public health and drug demand reduction. This is changing with the understanding that greater focus should be placed on public education and prevention techniques to deal with the problem in the earliest stage of its development. Programs to promote treatment, rehabilitation, and social re-integration for drug users are also attracting greater attention.

The effects of the illicit drug trade on Guyana continues to evolve in a gradually way. Understanding why and how is a difficult undertaking, as there is a wide range of potential factors to consider and uncertainties as regards the manner in which they interact and the effects of those interactions. Moreover, many of the factors involved and their effects are difficult to measure or quantify with any confidence as there is a paucity of information available on these issues, which makes solid analysis easier said than done.

The key impact of illicit drug use on society is the negative health consequences experienced by members of society. Drug use can have a serious health impact, even for casual users. Chronic cannabis use can lead to drug dependency as well as a number of behavioural and psychiatric conditions, including internalizing disorders such as anxiety or depression. Indirect impacts include increased prevalence of infectious diseases among drug users as well as cardiovascular dysfunctions, lung diseases and, kidney function.

The key question facing our national policy makers is how best to develop well-coordinated balance strategies that simultaneously deal with both supply control and demand reduction issues. New trends broadly support shifts in drug policy with an emphasis on education public awareness and early prevention measures. This is reflected in the New NDSMP 2014 -2018.

Strategies for preventing drug related crime in Guyana should therefore involve all sectors of Government and include education, housing and health issues. Development projects should include a crime prevention component but also recognize that criminal justice reform and democratic community policing are also essential.

Isolated domestic strategies must be linked with regional hemispheric and global measures to ensure maximum effectiveness.

## **NATIONAL INITIATIVES**

The government promotes fighting the illicit drug trade as an important national security objective and has continued to vigorously develop and implement national counter narcotics policies to avert the negative effect of the scourge on the nation and its citizens.

Government adopts the legal, strategic, organisational and budgetary frameworks necessary to respond to drug-related problems, while national drugs legislation, programmes and plans provide a framework for coordinated action. Together, these elements build the drug policies that allow national stakeholders to develop and implement the drug demand and supply reduction interventions required.

The combating of the drug trade in Guyana has seen a strong commitment by law enforcement agencies to pursue drug traffickers and dismantle their operations.

Huge funding is diverted from important social programmes to support law enforcement in the national counter drug effort.

The Guyana Police Force, the Customs Anti narcotic Unit and the Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) of the Guyana Revenue Authority are constantly in the forefront of the drug fight. The DEU is mandated to monitor and examine on a profile basis, all exports from Guyana with the aim of identification and interdiction of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and illegal goods concealed within cargo. The DEU operates and monitors activities mainly at transit sheds/wharves in the Georgetown harbour.

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

### **Guyana/Brazil Relations**

Guyana and Brazil have continued to strengthen their bilateral relations in the area of security.

Members of the Guyana Police Force attended a Border Operations Course by Brazil from October 13- 22, 2014 in Bonfim and Boa Vista, Brazil and Guyana participated in the First Security Symposium and XI Technical Meeting on National Security on the Borders (ENAFRON) which was held in Pacaraima, Brazil, August, 2014.

### **Guyana/Canada Cooperation**

A Course in Surveillance Techniques was conducted for members of the Guyana Police Force and the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit, by four (4) officers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). The Course focused on best practice investigative techniques with the use of cameras and two way radios.

### **Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI)**

In 2014, through the CBSI partnership Agreement between the Caribbean and the United States of America, the Guyana Police Force received Live Scan Machines for the operation of the Automated Fingerprint Information System (AFIS) and these were installed at the CID Headquarters, Brickdam, New Amsterdam and Cove & John Police Stations and are operational.

Officials from the Ministry of the Guyana Police Force participated from both local and overseas training, such as:-

1. DEA Airport Interdiction Training held in April, 2014. This training was focused on the review of computer data analysis, methodologies, interviewing techniques and the conduct of seizure operations.
2. Officers from several Agencies in Guyana benefited from a Law Enforcement Leadership and Professional Ethics training in El Salvador. The training was focused on leadership and development, counter terrorism, customs and border issues, financial crimes, combating drugs and Latin American threat – anti gangs.
3. Airport Threat Mitigation training at the CJIA which focused on inspections and audits of ports to ensure they remained secure.
4. Police Officers were trained by the Pennsylvania State Police in October, 2014. The Focus was on Investigation of crimes involving sexual and gender based violence.
5. Correctional and other officers participated in **“Security Threat Group” Management training in November, 2014.**
6. Delegations from Guyana attended CBSI Technical Working Group Meetings held in Suriname and the Bahamas this year.

### **Collaboration with UNLIREC**

Activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin American (UNLIREC) and the Caribbean fell under the CBSI also.

In 2014 the Government of Guyana received from UNLIREC a pair of hydraulic Shears and a Small Arms Ammunition Burning Tank. These items of equipment will be used to destroy a large number of obsolete firearms, ammunition and explosives under an Agreement signed between the Government and UNLIREC.

UNLIREC provided training to twenty five (25) ranks from the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Defence Force in the usage and maintenance of the aforementioned items of equipment during the year. This led to the destruction of six thousand two hundred and seventy six (6276) obsolete/surplus weapons and two thousand eight hundred and sixty eight (2868) tonnes of various calibres of ammunition that were in the custody of the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Defence Force.

These destruction missions have allowed the Guyana Police Force and Guyana Defence Force more space for more efficient storage of operational weapons and ammunition. It also drastically reduced the risk of weapons being stolen and used in arms trafficking.

Additionally, the Ministry of Home Affairs with invaluable support from the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Guyana Police Force facilitated the visit of a team from UNLIREC for a specialized training course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives for legal practitioners.

The three (3) day training saw representatives from local stakeholders gain knowledge from professional international and local instructors across six (6) learning modules related to the prosecution of firearms trafficking. The participants ultimately gained a greater appreciation of their Agencies' respective roles in dealing with arms trafficking and of the need to always seek to tackle the said issue collaboratively.

### **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**

The Ministry of Home Affairs continues to cooperate with the IDB to strengthen citizen security and reduce crime and violence nationally.

In June 2014 the Citizen Security Programme (CSP) which had been made possible through a loan of US\$19.8M concluded. During its life span, the Programme undertook mainly to:

- Rehabilitate eighteen (18) Police Stations in Regions Nos. 4 and 6
- Rehabilitate the Ministry of Home Affairs Secretariat
- Establish and equip a computer laboratory at the Guyana Police Force Headquarters

- Construct and equip data centres at the Guyana Police Force Headquarters and Ministry of Home Affairs to facilitate the collection of data under the Integrated Crime Information System
- Construct a modern Training Facility at the Guyana Police Force and provide a comprehensive training of trainers training in 23 core policing areas
- Construct, equip and commission a forensic laboratory and
- Provide skills training to 1377 at-risk youths in approximately 24 competencies to prepare them for the violence prevention, work place etiquette and skills for employment.

Under the CSP, the ‘Safe Neighbourhood’ initiative was introduced in Regions 4 and 6 and pilot projects were undertaken in three (3) communities in Regions 6 (Angoy’s Avenue, Overwinning/Edinburgh and Kilkoj/Fyrish/Chesney). The initiative targeted community participation in the reduction of crime and violence and the Ministry will continue with the implementation of this initiative in other communities.

The collaboration with the IDB continues as the Government of Guyana entered into a non-reimbursable technical cooperation Agreement amounting to US\$1.67M in March 2014. The objective aims to improve public sector efficiency in delivering services related to crime prevention and security. This intervention targets mainly:

- The reorganization of the internal operational structure of the Ministry, the Guyana Prison Service and the Guyana Fire Service including the development of a Public Relations Strategy, a Human Resource Strategy and a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Training of the Guyana Police Force in crime prevention, social outreach and community policing
- Improved access to services in ten (10) isolated communities through the strengthening of the Houses of Justice
- Technical and vocational skills training for eight hundred (800) at-risk youths (300) in 2015, aimed at contributing to the reduction of the number of youths involved in criminal activities.

Further the Guyana of Guyana has received approval from the IDB for credit financing in the sum of US\$15M. This intervention is expected to contribute to a reduction of crime and violence and in particular will address:

- The incidence of violent behavior in target communities mainly through evidence-based interventions and training for community members in violence prevention techniques, private sector partnerships in skills training, job placement, mentoring among other aspects and the establishment and strengthening of Community Action Councils.
- The Guyana Police Force effectiveness in crime prevention and crime investigation with the focus on improving the human resource management and mechanisms, preparing a police performance capacity diagnostic, developing human resource management plan and performance assessments and curricula, expanding all police sub-stations, establishing standard operating procedures, acquiring a patrol management information system, preparing protocols for the development of a multi-sector domestic violence and forensic evidence, establishing a Guyana Police Force Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, expanding access to crime and violence data and strengthening the Force's crime investigation capacity.
- The Guyana Prison Service effectiveness in reducing offender recidivism with emphasis on the strengthening of the Service's rehabilitation and social integration services and addressing prison overcrowding.

## **Other Activities**

In 2015 the Ministry is likely to receive additional training offers as follows:

1. The United States' Government will be providing support to Guyana's Forensic Laboratory in the form of training of staff;
2. Guyana will participate in a Deception Detection and Eliciting responses Regional training to be provided by the United States Customs and Border Protection. The objective of this training is to enhance participants' understanding of the basics of rapport based information elicitation techniques.
3. The Canadian Government in collaboration with the US Government is expected to embark on a project designed to address issues of crime reduction and capacity building of Guyana's Justice System. This project will be implemented by the Justice Education Society and will focus on strengthening the capacity of the Guyana Police Force, prosecutors and the

Judiciary to investigate, prosecute and try cases within an oral, adversarial system.

## **Counter Terrorism**

Guyana continues to pursue its legitimate interests in fulfillment of its counter-terrorism international obligations.

In this regard, our country's counter-terrorism report will be updated in January 2015 for submission in February to the United Nations Body.

## **CONCLUSION**

We at the Ministry of Home Affairs do not sit back and admire our achievements. We understand well the nature of the security sector and are constantly analyzing trends and developing initiatives to treat with emerging challenges.

Notwithstanding I wish to place on record my deep appreciation to the hard working staff of my Ministry who have supported me in the implementation of policy decisions relating to the mission the Sector.

I wish to thank also our local and international partners who provided us with much needed support.

In 2015 the Ministry as well as its constituents Departments will continue working with its partners to ensure that the service we provide to the general public is efficient and effective, ultimately improving on the results of 2014 and the preceding years.

We appeal to our citizens to come on board and work with us in a genuine effort to preserve the safety and security of our dear land of Guyana.

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of Guyana, the Ministry of Home Affairs to wish you and your family a most rewarding 2015.

**Honourable Clement J. Rohee, MP**  
**Minister of Home Affairs**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2014**